U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-Public Health Service

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE NEWS

E UNIVERSITY
MICHIGAN
AY 6 1963
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

VOL. XVIII, No. 4 Bethesda 14, Maryland APRIL 1963

MEDICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1500-1963

The past, present, and future of medical bibliography is the theme of an exhibit now on display in the lobby of the National Library of Medicine. Beginning with the first tentative author lists of Champier and Gesner in the 16th century, the exhibit features an early periodical index in the 17th century, and the comprehensive subject compilations of Haller and Ploucquet, culminating in the 33-volume author index-catalogue of Callisen.

To illustrate the Library's role in medical bibliography, the first volume of Billings' Index-Catalogue is displayed, together with the first issue of the Index Medicus, the Current List of Medical Literature, and the January 1960 issue of Index Medicus (New Series). The present status of medical bibliography is shown in a step-by-step analysis of the current mechanized system, based on the use of punched paper tape typewriters and the Listomatic camera used for the production of each monthly issue of Index Medicus.

In a special section devoted to MEDLARS some of the future objectives in medical literature analysis and retrieval are outlined -- increased high-speed composition capacity for Index Medicus, production of recurring bibliographies and special bibliographies on demand. A scale model of the Library's new computer and data processing center is also shown, as well as an analysis of the newly developed graphic arts composing equipment (GRACE), from magnetic tape to the printed page.

MURAL ARRIVES

The architectural mural in ceramic tile, designed and built for the National Library of Medicine by Frans Wildenhain of Rochester, New York, now reposes in 99 boxes stacked in the NLM shipping and receiving area. It will be set in place as soon as a suitable installation contract can be obtained.

The mural is destined for the four walls above the catalog area in the central rotunda of the Library; each wall is 52 feet long, and the mural will be placed within a five-foot track.

In the July/August 1962 issue of Craft Horizons there was a review of Mr. Wildenhain's work by M. C. Richards, who describes the NLM mural in the following terms:

> "[The mural] has taken the images off the earth, as it were, and sent them flying around the room horizontally, turning muscle into will, ganglia into intelligence, bone into gestalt... These free mosaics stand within the wall, rather than cover it. They grow outward, in relief variation, as well as sink and swell through the puddle-glazes and globs of glass half-melted and draped over the lip of structural detail... This impulse to pull in from the edge, to float the image in a field of color, also characterizes many of Wildenhain's paintings. The metamorphosis of his image from paint to clay relief, using not only color but the feeling of sculpture in three dimensions, seems a transformation natural to his gifts..."

COMPUTER INSTALLED

The Honeywell-800 computer, which will form the heart of the MEDLARS system, was delivered to NLM on March 14. It was set in place the same day, was checked over by Honeywell engineers on a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, schedule, and turned over to the Library on March 27 for acceptance testing. On the first day the computer was operated steadily for eight hours, and it did not whimper once.

Some long months of program testing and debugging, and of system operational testing, lie ahead.

MEDLARS SYMPOSIUM

On April 4 and 5 a Symposium on MEDLARS will be held at the National Library of Medicine. One hundred librarians have been invited to attend; they will come from the medical schools, the larger regional libraries, and from government agencies sponsoring technical information programs of closely allied interest. The number of invitations had to be strictly limited, so that the NLM Board Room would in fact accommodate the meeting, and so that demonstrations of some of the new equipment could be made meaningful.

Participants in the Symposium's program include Dr. Frank B. Rogers, Mr. Seymour I. Taine, Miss Winifred Sewell, Mr. Charles J. Austin, and Mr. Scott Adams of the NLM staff.

Various members of the General Electric Company's MEDLARS team will also participate: Mr. Richard F. Garrard, the Team Manager, will speak on "System Development"; Mr. Stephen J. Schoen, on "Input Processing"; Mr. Carl Calo, on "Computer Manipulation of Bibliographic Data"; Mr. John O. Henville-Shannon, on "Output Processing," and Mr. Panos Galidas, on "Decentralization of MEDLARS Services." Miss Mary McKeown, Instructor in the Electronic Data Processing Division of the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company, will speak on "Computer Fundamentals."

Construction of the computer area proper in the NLM is now complete and adjacent areas are almost finished; it is a very handsome installation. The Honeywell-800 computer was delivered to NLM on March 14 and was turned over to the Library for testing operations on March 27. GRACE will arrive on the scene sometime this summer.

NEW REFERENCE WORK

International scientific organizations, a guide to their library, documentation, and information services is a new reference aid of 794 pages. Under a grant from, and in consultation with, the National Science Foundation, it was prepared by the Library of Congress under the direction of Mrs. Kathrine O. Murra of the International Organizations Section in the General Reference and Bibliography Division; the book is available by purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, at $3.25.

Science is here interpreted broadly to include technology, agriculture, medicine. Organizations treated number 449 and some 160 of them are in the biomedical field. The descriptions of library and documentary facilities and the listing of organization publications, which are presented in catalog fullness, are of course the features which give this work its unique usefulness. Thus it complements, while not supplanting, the larger and more general Yearbook of International Organizations.

NLM MOTION PICTURE

A color motion picture of the history, resources, and services of the NLM has been in preparation for about three years. The picture has been produced by the Motion Picture Section of the National Medical Audiovisual Facility, USPHS Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia. This long-awaited 26-minute documentary will have its première showing during the Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship in Washington in June of this year.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

As of April 1 the opening day of the Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship is only ten weeks away. The nearness of Congress week, June 16-22, is evidenced by the fact that some overseas librarians are already en route to the United States and by the daily arrival of letters bringing information on departure dates and itineraries.

To greet arriving librarians and assist them in arranging regional library visits, the Registration Committee has established subcommittees in nine U. S. ports-of-entry. In addition, members of the Congress Organizing Committee have served as advisers to overseas librarians planning extensive trips in the United States and Canada.

Through the cooperation of American medical libraries and librarians, some overseas members of the Congress will have opportunities for work experience in United States libraries in connection with their participation in the Second International Congress.

TRANSLATION PROGRAM TRAVEL

Mr. Daniel Bailey, NLM Program Director for Scientific Publications, returned to the Library on March 21 after a month's trip which took him to Paris, Jerusalem, New Delhi, and Tokyo. Mr. Bailey discussed with scientists and government officials in these centers the projects to be managed under the Library's foreign currency translation program. He explored resources available for translations, abstracting, indexing, and the preparation of critical review papers.

B M T

The National Library of Medicine has published Bibliography of Medical Translations (January 1959-June 1962), in cooperation with the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce. The work is an alphabetical author listing of almost 6,000 entries, with supplementary indices. Distribution has been made to medical institutions; additional copies are available from NLM.

NEW BOOK

Medical librarianship; principles and practice, by John L. Thornton, Librarian of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London, has recently appeared (London, Crosby Lockwood, 1963. 153 p. 15s).

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, January 18, 1963